

BROWNTOWN COTTON GIN
SC Rt. 341, between
Lake City & Johnsonville
Johnsonville Vicinity
Florence County
South Carolina

HAER NO. SC-13

HAER
SC
21-JOHV.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

HAER SC, 21-Johnville, 1-
HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
SITE DATA FORM

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
South Carolina	Florence	Johnsonville

HISTORIC NAME	HAER NO.
Browntown Cotton Gin	SC-13

SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES

COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL AREAS)

SC Hwy 341, approximately halfway between Lake City and Johnsonville

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BUILDER, OR FABRICATOR

early nineteenth century (Nat'l. Register form)

SIGNIFICANCE (TECHNOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE)

Part of a unique collection of buildings known as Browntown, reflecting the self-sufficient way of life practiced by several generations of the Brown family during the 19th & early 20th centuries. There are 11 remaining Browntown buildings.
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)

Constructed of hewn braced timber with heart pine weatherboard sheathing. All of the main timber framing was pegged mortise-and-tenon joints.

SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)

2 1/2 story rectangular building with a gable roof.

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The building that contains the gin was raised about 10 feet on wood pilings to allow room for the gears that powered the gin. The large wooden gears were turned by horses and mules.

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT)

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES

none

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE

Good condition. Leased by the Three Rivers Historical Society and opened periodically to the public.

OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY LANDMARK DESIGNATIONS, ETC.)

Listed in the National Register 6/28/82

COMPILER, AFFILIATION

Nancy Pittenger, E. Thomas Sims; SCDH

DATE

4/5/88

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* including the cotton gin building, three residences, a school, a tobacco barn, and several outbuildings. The gin building was designed to house the Brown's cotton gin and to provide for the transmission of horse-power to run the gin. The building is very significant in the field of engineering, and represents an intelligent adaptation of traditional technology and materials to solve a complex problem.